MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MAY 1981

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israelis resumed shelling in the south on 6 May while Beirut radio reported a large Israeli military buildup along the southern border. Jerusalem radio denied a Beirut radio report that Israel has installed six heavy artillery batteries in the eastern sector of the Christian border enclave. Beirut radio also reported intermittent clashes along the contact lines in the capital, and Voice of Lebanon radio said eastern Beirut was shelled indiscriminately during the evening. Israeli warplanes flew over the Al-Biqa' region, Voice of Lebanon also reported.

Israel

In an Independence Day speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the Lebanese Christians. Israel's recent actions in Lebanon, Begin claimed, saved the Christian community, which had stood on the brink of destruction under Syrian attacks. Begin also referred to the Lebanese crisis in an interview with MA'ARIV, published on 6 May, in which he said Israel's concern in Lebanon is not any red line but the problem of guaranteeing the existence of the Christian minority. Regarding Syria's SAM missiles deployed inside Lebanon and on the Syrian-Lebanese border, Begin said Israel's dilemma is that while U.S. diplomatic moves are underway to secure their withdrawal the Syrians could introduce more missiles, making any attempt to knock them out increasingly costly for Israel. Begin praised the Reagan administration, describing it as the most friendly U.S. administration Israel has ever dealt with and noting that parts of President Ronald Reagan's recent message were very important and most favorable for Israel.

Syria

Soviet, Kuwaiti Envoys Arrive--Damascus radio reported that Georgiy Korniyenko, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Syria on a 3-day official visit. The radio also reported that Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn met in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered a message to the Syrian leader from the Kuwaiti amir.

Commentary on Lebanon--A Damascus radio commentary called on all Lebanese, particularly those on whose behalf Israel claims to speak, to prevent Israel from using them as a pretext for intervening in Lebanon and to facilitate the process of national accord. Syria demands that the Lebanese settle their differences without hesitation or conditions, the radio said, and that those accused of dealing with Israel publicly renounce any such links and join with Syria in confronting the Israelis. Syria has prepared itself to confront Israeli schemes in Lebanon, the radio went on, and has made clear and objective calculations.

Military Exercise--Under the direction of President al-Asad, Syrian Armed Forces commander, Damascus radio reported, a mechanized unit carried out a live-fire tactical exercise using all types of land weapons and simulating defensive and counteroffensive operations.

PLO

According to reports by KUNA and the GULF NEWS AGENCY, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar to discuss the Lebanese situation with the leaders of those countries. The Voice of Palestine reported that after his talks with Saudi leaders, 'Arafat said the PLO fully supports Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' 14-point plan for conciliation among the various Lebanese parties.

Egypt

In response to an appeal by the people of Zahlah for Egyptian aid in expelling the Syrians from Lebanon, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement strongly criticizing both Syria and Israel for their actions in Lebanon and reporting that Egypt has begun major diplomatic moves in support of the Lebanese people. The statement, carried textually by MENA, accused Syria of wreaking havoc in Lebanon and Israel of aggravating the crisis in disregard of the peace process. Egypt, it added, has summoned the Asian, African, European and Latin American ambassadors to brief them on the gravity of the Lebanese crisis and the need for international action to protect Lebanon.

Libya

Reaction to U.S. Expulsion of Diplomats--Citing a report in the Abu Dhabi paper AL-WAHDAH, QNA said the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington has stated that his country will respond to the U.S. decision to expel the Libyan diplomatic mission, adding that the suspension of oil sales is only one of several weapons that could be used against the United States.

Jallud Interview--In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud said that Libya is a neutral country but that U.S. pressures "do not help" it to remain neutral and could force it to become completely pro-Soviet. He said current U.S.-Libyan relations are characterized by hostility on the U.S. side, but he described Soviet-Libyan relations as relations of true friendship. He denied that Libya's dependence on Soviet arms could make it a hostage of the Soviet Union, asserting that Libyan has several sources of arms. Jallud said that Libya's offer of air support to protect Lebanese airspace is "pending" and that Libya provides arms to the Palestinians and Lebanese national movement. Speaking of the proposed Syrian-Libyan merger, he said that because the two countries have different ideologies, the proposals of the two sides for the merger must be studied and differences must be examined. Pointing out that Libya has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Agreement, Jallud stated that Libya has neither the intention nor the resources to produce a nuclear bomb but that it intends to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Inter-Arab Affairs

At the OAPEC conference in Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar proposed that oil prices be frozen in order to avoid disputes among OPEC members, KUNA reported. According to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah told a Kuwait press conference that there is a "trend" toward freezing oil prices as a result of the oil surplus on world markets.

Iran

Writing in the daily MIZAN, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said that the government's draft budget, which will be 80 percent funded by oil revenues, will make Iran as dependent on Western oil-consuming countries and reactionary oil-producing countries as it was in the past, AFP repoted. The sale of 2.5 million barrels of oil a day--to compensate for a hidden budget deficit--will prevent Iran from increasing its oil prices and controlling its production, he asserted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an interview with Tehran radio, President Bani-Sadr claimed that in the last month, Iran has suffered 102 dead and 486 wounded at the battlefront but has killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqis.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PDPA MEMBERS DEPART FOR VISIT TO PROVINCE

LD061722 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] On instructions from the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Revolution Council Presidium, a second group of party members from Kabul left today for a province to consolidate popular order and explain the aims of the revolution, party and government to the people.

Representatives of the Kabul City Committee and the country's government and security authorities bade them farewell.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds: These revolution strugglers expressed warm and patriotic sentiments at their departure, indicative of their strong will. It is obvious that a complete and final victory will be theirs.

SECURITY FORCES ARREST BALKH TERRORIST GROUP

GF061547 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Security forces have arrested a terrorist group that was disrupting the peaceful lives of the toiling people of (Kundran) District, Balkh Province. The security forces report that these counterrevolutionaries, who were carrying Pakistani and German arms, are being interrogated.

DISSIDENT PRESS AGENCY REPORTS OFFICIAL'S DEATH

OW052020 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Islamabad, 5 May (AFP)--A the governor of Afghanistan's Paktia Province was killed and four others, including the provincial police chief, were severely wounded when rebel-planted mines blew up their jeep last Friday, the Afghan dissident AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported today.

According to reports, Governor Dur Mohammad, a member of the Parcham faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party, was on his way to Ghazni on Friday to attend a May Day function. The jeep carrying Dur Mohammad and four police officials was blown up by the mine near Sardeh Dam, 15 km (10 miles) south of the provincial headquarter town of Sherana.

The agency said that the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan rebel group has claimed responsibility for the explosion. There was no official confirmation from Radio Kabul.

The agency also reported that the next day Afghan guerrillas ambushed and detained 18 "known" Parcham party members in the Kabul suburbs.

The party members, some of them senior officials, were taken to unidentified rebel headquarters in Afghanistan for trial by an Islamic court, the agency said.

The court generally hands down death penalties for communist supporters.

EX-MP URGES OTHER MP'S TO RESIGN FROM PARLIAMENT

BK061631 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Dacca, 6 May (AFP)--An opposition parliament member who resigned from his office last week accused government of making parliament a mere "rubber stamp" and advised other MP's to resign and take a fresh mandate from the people.

45-year-old former engineer Mr Abdur Rashid was elected to parliament in February 1979 general elections as a nominee of the National Socialist Party (JSD) by defeating his nearest rival from the ruling party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) by over 7,500 votes.

Mr Rashid, generally known as "Rashid engineer", said in a press interview that he did not find any justification to continue as a public representative and alleged that "under cover of democracy a fascist government" was now running the country. He said the ruling party had created an impossible situation in his constituency making it difficult for him to undertake any development work in his area.

Mr Rashid, who was elected to the erstwhile Pakistan National Assembly in 1970 as an Awami League nominee, later left the party to join the JSD in 1973. He is the first parliament member to resign in the last few years. Earlier in 1975, two MP's--retired General M.A.G. Osmany who contested President Ziaur Rahman in the 1978 presidential election, and Mr Mainul Hussain, chief editor of the largest circulation daily ITTEFAQ--had resigned when the late President Sheykh Mujib introduced a one-party rule by dissolving all parties.

The JSD, which is now left with only seven seats in the 330-member parliament, had not yet made any reaction to Mr Rashid's resignation. But Rashid in an interview claimed that he had submitted his resignation to the speaker on April 30 last after consultations with his party leaders, who had assured him that the question of the resignation of the remaining seven JSD member would be decided by the party soon.

Though Mr Rashid claimed that he continued to be associated with the JSD, reports suggest that he was already in touch with former President Khandoker Moshtaque Ahmed to explore the possibility of joining the latter's Democratic League.

Both Moshtaque and Rashid come from the same constituency in eastern district of Comilla and Rashid in a recent printed leaflet had described the DL chief as his political mentor.

A formal announcement on holding a byelection for the vacated seat of Mr Rashid is likely to be made in few days by the election commission.

LOK SABHA TO DISCUSS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

BK070914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha will discuss a motion of no confidence in the Council of Ministers. The motion is to be moved by George Fernandes, Lok Dal. Speaker Bal Ram Jhakad admitted the motion after it received the support from the requisite number of MP's. Almost all opposition members except those of Dravida Munnetra Kazhgham stood up in support of the motion. The speaker announced that the date and the time for discussion will be announced after consulting the concerned people.

Earlier, the speaker overruled the objections raised by Communications Minister C.M. Stevens and other members of the Treasury benches. Mr Stevens pointed out that the prime minister is out of the country and it would not be proper to admit such a discussion now. The speaker can use its discretionary power and reject it, he added. Others argued that the opposition had several opportunities during the budget session to express their lack of confidence in the government and they failed to do so. It will, therefore, be not proper to move it at the tag-end of the session.

The speaker, however, pointed out that there were many precedents when no-confidence motions were discussed during the budget session. The rules provide certain procedures for a no-confidence motion and he would do accordingly, the speaker added.

LOK SABHA PASSES DISTURBED AREA SPECIAL COURTS BILL

BK061255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed the disturbed area special courts amendment bill seeking to empower the central government to declare any area as disturbed area and to set up special courts. When the house adopted the bill by 110 votes to 44, most of the opposition members staged a walkout.

In his reply at the final stage, Minister of State for Home Affairs Venkatasubbiah categorically stated that the center is not interested in toppling any Congress-I state government.

MINISTER DISCUSSES BBC FILM ON TRIBAL LIFE

BK070908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha was assured today that the government will take stringent action against the BCC if its film on the (Murlia) tribals of Bastar District in Madhya Pradesh contravenes the agreement. If anything objectionable is found in the film, it will be censored.

The assurance was given by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao while replying to a calling-attention motion by Ram Vilas Paswan, Lok Dal, and others on the reported unauthorized shooting of films by the BBC on the private life of the tribals in Bastar.

AEC CHIEF ON ASSISTANCE IN URANIUM EXPLORATION

BK070619 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] New Delhi, 6 May (AFP)--India has reached a stage where it can offer assistance to other developing countries in uranium exploration, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission H. Sethna has said.

Reports quoted him as saying to reporters at Kurukshetra, in the northern Haryana State, that this country was also now in a position to take up turn-key aerial and land-based uranium exploration assignments abroad.

He disclosed that India had an estimated 53,000 tonnes of uranium reserves detected in the course of surveys conducted in various parts of the country. Of this, 30,000 tones were "reasonably assured."

He also stated that a new 100-tonne nuclear fuel reprocessing plant was proposed to be set up at the Kalpakkam atomic power station in the Tamilandu (formerly Madras) State. This would be an improvement over the present one at the American-built Tarapur atomic power plant near Bombay.

DELHI REPORTEDLY WANTS TO BUY MODERN HELICOPTERS

BK061240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] New Delhi, 6 May (AFP)--The Indian Government is negotiating with some Western firms and the Soviet Union on the possibility of purchasing the latest range of helicopters for its air force.

According to the English daily FINANCIAL EXPRESS, this forms part of the government plans to modernise and strengthen the defence forces to meet the threat thrown up by the heavy rearming of Pakistan by the United States.

Quoting informed sources, the paper said the government was at the moment negotiating with France, Messerschmit-Bolkow-Blohm (MBB) of West Germany, the U.S. and the USSR for purchase of helicopters. India has made it clear to these parties that the purchase will depend on the facility to manufacture the aircraft indigenously in the future.

Though the reaction of the parties to the Indian condition has yet to be indicated, it is believed that France and the USSR might satisfy it with "strings" attached here and there. Both these countries have in the past been "flexible" in transfering defence technology to this country, the paper added.

India is keen on procuring either the German missile-equipped BO-105 (PAH 1) or French (Puma SA-330 L) helicopters, since they have been found "suitable" by the committee which studied the merits of different helicopters and their adaptability to Indian conditions, the paper said.

But, the Soviet Union, it said, might dim the chances of both France and Germany by offering its helicopter, MI-21, at a throwaway price.

ISI GIVES DETAILS OF UPCOMING SATELLITE LAUNCH

BK070824 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0839 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] The 40 kg Rohini spacecraft in low earth orbit will be the third in the series of proving flights of the SLV-3 launcher being developed by ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization]. This is a four stage system with solid propellant rocket motors. The vehicle is 22 metres long and weighs about 17 tonnes at launch. The booster stage is 1 meter in diameter. The vehicle makes use of alloy steel cases in the first and second stages and fibreglass reinforced plastic rocket motor cases for the upper stages. From lift off to orbit flight takes a total of 409 seconds, injection of the spacecraft taking place at a nominal altitude of 300 km.

The Rohini satellite RSD-1 to be injected into near earth orbit by SLV-3D1, besides carrying telemetry equipment for monitoring injection of the satellite. also carries a solid state landmarker sensor as payload. It is designed for identifying features on land which will help refine the determination of orbit.

The satellite has been designed, fabricated and tested at the ISRO satellite centre, Bangalore, and has reached Sriharikota. Final tests on the satellite and compatibility checks with the launch vehicle are now underway.

USSR WILLING TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR POWERPLANT

BK070652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] A Soviet delegation will visit Pakistan this month to sign a trade protocol for this year. I.T. Grishin, deputy minister for foreign trade, will lead the delegation. This was stated by Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Smirnov in an interview with PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Karachi.

He said that there were possibilities of increasing Soviet-Pakistan economic cooperation. He said his country was willing to help Pakistan in developing the industrial fields of agricultural machinery, fertilizers and pesticides.

The Soviet ambassador also said that his country was willing to provide a nuclear powerplant to meet energy requirements on the same conditions it has provided such plants to other countries.

MADRAS PAPER INTERVIEWS AGHA SHAHI IN NEW YORK

BK061113 Madras HINDU in English 26 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text] United Nations, 25 Apr--"I think there is a totally unfounded fear in India about what is called the 'arming' of Pakistan. This is a very unfortunate phrase because it raises the spectre of some fearful shadow falling over India...what level of forces and armaments from Pakistan will constitute a threat to India should be a matter of professional military judgment--on both sides...I'm sure if your military men and our military men were to sit opposite each other, they would at once reach an understanding."

Pakistan's foreign minister, Mr Agha Shahi, repeatedly addressed himself, in an hour-long interview with the HINDU on Friday, to what he called "India's fears" which were "so baseless as to be incomprehensible."

Stating that "we pay great attention to" the "susc tibilities of our Indian friends", he proposed, over and over again in the session, discussion...to allay mutual apprehension," a dialogue to see if "an agreement" on conventional armaments and ratios, as well as on nuclear questions, could not be reached.

He made it clear, however, that he did not want to say anything at this sensitive point about what should be a direct and non-public dialogue with the Government of India.

Allaying fears: Invited to sketch for the people in India how he viewed the purpose of the forthcoming visit to Pakistan of the Indian external affairs minister--expected in the third or fourth week of May--Mr Shahi said: "I think if it contributes to allaying unfounded apprehensions, it would be a great success and we are ready to talk to him frankly and sincerely as we've always done."

On the outcome of his recent three-day mission in Washington, he said: "We are exploring an economic aid and military sales relationship, not a military aid relationship--meaning grant aid."

He elaborated on the relationship as follows, providing an authoritiative basis for understanding the size and nature of the military supply relationship being negotiated with the Reagan administration. "If we, even through these loans which will be a very big burden on us, and some economic aid, buy military equipment of the order of $2 billions in five years...will that be a threat to India?"

At another point, addressing himself to a question on who the "defence" was to be against, he repeated the figure: "In these days in inflation, how much military equipment does $2 billions buy? How much does it buy? We have to purchase it at market rates."

Responding to another question about the reported seeking by the Pakistan Government of sophisticated armaments on commercial terms from the United States (on top of the foreign military sales credits at subsidised interest rates), he exclamed: "My friend, don't worry about it. Two to three billion dollars over five years is not going to make any difference."

With reference to the advanced military aircraft the Pakistan Government is seeking to buy from the United States, he raised the rhetorical question: "Do you think that about three to four squadrons of interceptor aircraft will threaten the security of India--when you have 20 Jaguars?"

Mr Shahi spelt out the basis of the relationship his government is seeking with the United States as follows: "I will tell you this: that we have said that our relationship with the United States must take into account limiting factors on both sides. To be a durable relationship, they must take these into account."

Non-alignment: He explained the point thus: "Limiting factors on our side are...our relationship with the U.S. must be consistent with our allegiance to the principles of the Non-aligned Movement. This rules out multilateral military arrangements, formal or informal...there is no question of giving any bases.

"To be fair to the Americans, they have told us that all this talk on the press about a 'strategic regional consensus' does in no way represent the thinking of the Reagan administration. It is based in ideas put out by various people and press speculation, stories."

Pakistan's foreign minister added: "You see, we want to build a new durable relationship taking into account all these limiting factors, and a relationship consistent with Pakistan's non-alignment and the positions to which it is pledged as a member of the Islamic conference. We told them that on the question of the Gulf, we are committed to the Mecca declaration, which says that the security of the Gulf and the safety of its sealanes is the exclusive responsibility of the Gulf states...we cannot support any proposal put by one superpower for the security of the Gulf."

Afghan issue: With reference to his government's policy towards Afganistan, Mr Shahi was asked about "Mr Ronald Reagan's not very subtle suggestion that the United States funnel arms into Pakistan for the Afghan resistance." He said he had raised it with the Americans and had been told that Mr Reagan's was "an off-the-cuff remark."

"I have made it clear," said Mr Shahi a day after he concluded his Washington visit, "that Pakistan would adhere to its position. We do not want to get involved in this, and there was no challenge to our position. Of course, some congressmen want Pakistan to commit itself to such a role. You know that the U.S. people speak out freely but our policy has been accepted."

Mr Shahi responded affirmatively to a question whether the Pakistan Government would consider itself bound by the formulation in the New Delhi nonaligned declaration that has two elements--a call for withdrawal of foreign forces and respect for the principle of non-intervention.

He termed a recent Soviet response to talks on Afghanistan an "encouraging factor" and said Pakistan would persist in seeking "a political solution of the Afghanistan situation through the intermediacy of the (UN) secretary-general and his special representative."

Mr Shahi was willing to go into Pakistan's position on a political solution in considerable detail. "Our position has in no way changed. We came under greater pressure from all sides not to undertake a dialogue even on a basis of non-recognition. But we maintain our position. The moment Iran agrees to participate, we will have a bilateral conference."

Asked whether he was not putting a very difficult condition given the attitude of Iran and why Pakistan should not take a positive step by itself, he responded, "We can take the step through the intermediacy of the representative of the secretary-general. If you mean we have to sit across the table, that will not be possible. Why, of course, we do not want to go against the wishes of so many countries of the world which are supporting us. We do not want to isolate ourselves."

UN mediation: But he said the fact that the UN secretary-general's representative "can go to Kabul, come to Islamabad, practise such diplomacy" was "only the beginning and an encouraging step...in that Kabul has accepted the good offices of the secretary-general so this can continue".

He felt that "it's not impossible that Iran will participate." He hoped that the secretary-general's special representative would go to Iran, but "meanwhile, there is nothing to prevent us from trying to advance. We would be carrying on a dialogue through his intermediacy and not across the table."

Asked if this was "quite satisfactory given the present constraints", Mr Shahi said: "There are great possibilities provided the will is there to cooperate with the representative of the secretary-general."

He answered affirmatively when asked whether the Pakistan Government was putting all its emphasis now on the secretary-general's intermediacy or representation, and also whether it remained committed to some kind of exchange, however indirect, with the Babrak Karmal regime as "a party, as a political party or a force that has to be reckoned with".

"That is being accepted....The point is that without Iran we won't sit at a conference table with the representatives of Babrak Karmal even as a political party. But there is no impediment to a dialogue with the opposite side as representing a political party and ourselves through the personal representative of the secretary-general".

Mr Shahi added: "I think the encouraging factor has been the Soviet Union has not objected to the appointment of a personal representative. He has been received in Kabul. And we hope he can go with the secretary-general to Moscow early next month".

Asked whether he saw any obstacle or impediment placed on the way of this process by the U.S., he answered, "They know our policy is clear, we have enunciated this publicly. We have stood firm against criticism from various sides--from our closest friends--and we reiterated our policy in my talks in Washington".

Countering Moscow: In response to a "blunt" question often raised: "Do you seriously believe you would be able to counter the overwhelming military capability, the power, the deployment of the Soviet Union?" The Pakistan foreign minister said: "This is a purely theoretical question. It is cased on theoretical fear.

"We don't believe that the Soviet Union will launch a massive military attack against Pakistan. Because if it does that, then the situation...can precipitate a truly global crisis. What is relevant is a limited attack. And even that limited attack will be undertaken with the much more modern weaponry than what Pakistan possesses.

"What if MiG-23's attack us? And the scale of purchases we have in mind is only to meet a local attack".

At another point in the interview, Mr Shahi raised the question himself: "Suppose even there is a local attack. Well, with what will the local attack take place? It will take place with more modern and sophisticated armaments than we have".

Referring to a recent observation by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, in Bombay (although not naming her), Mr Shahi called for "an understanding attitude. Recently, words have been used to say that the storm clouds of war are gathering....What I wish to say is that in Pakistan we have no such clouds. They are peaceful skies....Why not try a dialogue? Is it our fault you don't want to discuss with us, you don't want to try a dialogue, and you build your fears on...no basis.

"Because we have no intention of going to war with India under any circumstances. Use of force is ruled out by the Simla Agreement. Even the status quo in Kashmir is not to be disturbed by military means. We have eschewed the use of force.

"So this is a no-war pact. What more? You can give it any title you want but what the Simla Agreement says is....a no-war pact....I wish to state categorically that Pakistan will never commit aggression against India. We are not for military conclusions."

Mr Shahi stated repeatedly that the armaments Pakistan was proposing to acquire were not going to affect the military balance between the two countries. "I don't think there is an impact on the military balance. I say, let us discuss this question."

"We have said we will not seek parity of armaments. We can agree on ratios, a reasonable ratio."

On the Indo-Soviet arms purchase agreement of approximately $1.6 billions, he observed: "We think your deal is worth between six and eight billion dollars. And your Jaguars, you have given out the figure, they were two billion dollars.

About Pakistan's nuclear programme, he observed: "I'm sorry to say that in India it's assumed we are engaged in manufacturing nuclear weapons. And therefore India must do it. We're worried now that you're going to carry out some tests. If we don't say anything, it is again not to enter into a controversy.

"But what have you to fear? And I can tell you categorically that we're not engaged in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

"About nuclear explosions, we shall see if and when we get the capability. We will find out what international regime is envisaged. And we have told you we're ready to talk to you....to exchange mutual assurances."

Raising the question, "What is the best policy for a country?", Mr Shahi answered: "A friendly country."

One of his messages to India was: "I think we face such an entirely new qualitative situation that we need to make mental adjustments. And the first thing we've got to do is to reassure each other. Because old syndromes are revived and we must guard against this."

BANI-SADR QUESTIONED ON RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY

LD061916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 81

[Interview with Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, by Tehran radio correspondent at Mehrabad Airport following Bani-Sadr's return to Tehran on 6 May from an inspection trip to the war zones--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Bani-Sadr, could you inform our listeners about the victories we have scored on the battlefields?

[Answer] During the past few nights the Persian and Arabic programs of Baghdad radio and television have been busy reporting on Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. You must go and film this area so that the Iraqis cannot find any other opportunities for such false propaganda. The enemy casualty toll is very high over there. Saddam has brought Division No 7, which is said to be under his personal command, and he himself has been present there. Well, he has been defeated, and the casualty toll is high. Last night in their oral attack they urged us to tell the people of Iran how many casualties we have had. Well, here are the number of casualties we have suffered in 1 month of battle on that front, according to the chief of staff: officers: 9 martyred, 9 wounded, 1 missing; NCO's: 8 martyred, 41 wounded, 4 missing; privates: 51 martyred, 199 wounded, 46 missing; corpsmen: 34 martyred, 237 wounded. In all, we have 102 martyred, 51 missing and 486 wounded, who are suffering mainly from minor injuries. The enemy casualty toll has been very heavy, so much so that [word indistinct] we have captured more than 500 prisoners and killed or wounded at least twice this figure. As a result, we have reinforced the positions we had captured and have captured new positions in the region of Nowsud, even though the Iraqis have brought in a division. The enemy used to come and make sporadic raids but these have also been completely eliminated. In the Khuzestan region in the past few days there have been several clashes, and we have captured positions and taken some prisoners as well. There are plans which, God willing, will be carried out in time.

[Question] It has been said that we have had hand-to-hand combat in Dezful. Could you please elaborate on this?

[Answer] Our forces have made surprise attacks in this region. We have captured positions in (Tappel Cheshmeh); the Iraqis attacked again to retake the area but their efforts were thwarted. They suffered casualties. There are other plans which, God willing, will be carried out.

[Question] It has been said that the enemy has been attacking more frequently today in the Ahvaz region. As far as we have been informed...

[Answer] Attack? There hasn't been an attack. They are shooting. They have opened more fire in the region of (Talia); this means that they are fleeing.

[Question] As you mentioned, we have had numerous gains this week. Thank God. How do you foresee this war?

[Answer] The future of the war depends on the morale of our people and our armed forces; if there is calm behind the front, there will be calm on the front, God willing. We expect new victories in the near future.

BANI-SADR ORDERS INVESTIGATION IN HORMOZEGAN

LD070618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, President Bani-Sadr, in a letter to Javad Puradahi, has given him the mission to go to Hormozegan Province to study the difficulties of the people in that province. The text of the letter reads:

In His exalted name. Mr Javad Puradahi. On the basis of this letter you are given the mission to travel to Hormozegan Province to investigate the general situation in that province and study the difficulties and problems of the people, especially in connection with the calamity caused by the floods in the Lastak region as well as the war refugees in this province. You should give them the good news that our heroic and able nation is determined to endure any difficulty and remove any obstacle in its path through service, endeavor and initiative and for their homeland in the path of Islam.

[Signed] President Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

BANI-SADR: NEW BUDGET DEPENDENT ON WEST, ARABS

NC061204 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 6 May (AFP)--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today attacked the Iranian Government's draft budget for 1981 on the grounds that it will make Iran as dependent on Western oil-consuming countries and "reactionary" Arab oil producers as it was under the regime of the late shah.

Mr Bani-Sadr, writing in the liberal daily MIZAN, said that the budget, which will draw 80 per cent of its funds from oil revenue and the remainder from income tax and customs duty, "will keep Iran in a vicious circle of misery and dependence."

"The anticipated sale of 2.5 million barrels of oil a day--in reality, three million barrels--needed to make up an apparently hidden budget deficit" serves the "interests of Western consumers and reactionary Arabs" and "prevents Iran from increasing its (oil) prices and controlling its production," he added.

The 3,300,000-milllion-rial (40,000-million-dollar) budget, which will be discussed in the Iranian national assembly next week, covers the fiscal year which started on March 21.

Mr Bani-Sadr said that in the past two years Iran's gross national product had dropped by 11 per cent and he denounced the draft budget as inflationary.

He also criticised the development of imports, which he said would destroy traditional national production.

WARTIME OFFENSES COURT APPEALS FOR INFORMATION

LD070946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the court in charge of wartime offenses has issued its 25th statement, announcing:

It has recently been noted that some agents of SAVAK and some other dregs left from the previous regime are taking part in the meetings of fascist American groups who are fighting against the Islamic Republic and discussing their vile aims in the context of a political movement within the revolutionary society. In this connection we ask the multimillion Muslim masses who firmly believe in the Islamic revolution to identify such individuals and to report their names at the first opportunity to the courts in charge of wartime offenses. We also ask the believing inhabitants of various parts of Tehran to identify those individuals who in various corners of the city are preparing themselves for an armed struggle against the Islamic Republic and to report the details to this court at the earliest opportunity.

We ask all believing individuals in the bazaar and trading centers to report to this court the names of counterrevolutionary and hypocritical elements who in critical wartime conditions are disturbing the security of the country or creating inflation or shortage of goods in the society.

Also in this statement, all drivers of public transportation vehicles, especially taxi drivers, are warned that if they engage in any counterrevolutionary activities, such as rumormongering or insulting national officials, and weaken the order of the Islamic Republic, in addition to heavy fines their licenses will be canceled and their names will be removed from the list of the committed taxi dirvers of Tehran.

All security officials, revolution guards, executive organs and regional municipalities are also asked to act decisively concerning those opportunistic individuals who with the assistance of American minigroups violate state property by day or by night and to arrest their leading figures.

COMMUNIQUE 494 ON BATTLE SUCCESSES, CASUALTIES

LD062224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 May 81

[Communique 494 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciates and expresses its gratitude for the hard work and acts of self-sacrifice by all our noble doctors, civilian or military, who have sincerely and selflessly toiled and have not stinted in their endeavor, and expresses gratitude to all our dear ones who, with their active presence on the most sensitive and dangerous battlefronts, have strengthened the morale of and reassured our brother soldiers and Islamic fighters. Our revolutionary, Muslim compatriots in Iran are hereby informed about the situation on the battlefronts during the past 24 hours:

A. The southern fronts: An exchange of artillery and heavy-weapons fire continued on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts and, thanks to fire by our combatants, one enemy tank, one fuel tanker, four vehicles--mainly personnel carriers, two ammunition dumps, three machinegun emplacements, three trenches, one observation post and one assembly point of the forces of blasphemy were set ablaze and destroyed. During these operations, enemy servicemen were killed or wounded. On these fronts the self-sacrificing combatants of the Airborne Division, by attacking the positions of the Iraqi Army mercenaries, destroyed 4 enemy antiaircraft guns, 2 vehicles, 2 ammunition caches and 3 trenches and killed 30 of Saddam's infidels. In retaliation against the fire of the combatants of Islam Saddam's army today aimed its artillery and heavy-weapons fire at residential buildings and installations were destroyed and some of our Abadani brothers were either martyred or wounded.

On the Ahvaz fronts, too, a sporadic exchange of artillery and mortar fire took place between our forces and the enemy. On these fronts, thanks to fire opened by our combatants from the ground forces, one enemy tank and one ammunition dump were set ablaze and destroyed and two mercenary vehicles were also damaged. During these operations more than 15 of Saddam's servicemen were killed or wounded.

On the Susangerd front, the combatants of the ground forces, after reconnoitering enemy positions and opening mortar fire on their positions, blew up a mercenary ammunition tent. On another front in Susangerd, one enemy tank unit, which was threatening our forces' positions, came under fire from our combatants and was silenced. During these operations our combatants succeeded in putting some enemy tanks out of action, killing or wounding their crews.

On the fronts west of Dezful, enemy artillery and infantry combat positions came under intense artillery and heavy-weapons fire from the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam and in the course of silencing enemy artillery and heavy weapons 4 enemy tanks and 2 personnel carriers were put out of action and about 30 Saddam mercenaries were killed or wounded. On this front one enemy observation bunker and one ammunition dump were set ablaze and destroyed.

During the past day, residential districts in Dezful were also the target of enemy artillery fire and suffered damage.

B. The western fronts: On the western fronts an exchange of artillery, mortar and other heavy-weapons fire continued yesterday. On one of the fronts in Ilam the positions of the mercenaries in Saddam's army came under fire from the combatants of Islam and, as a result, five enemy vehicles, one observation tower and one trench were destroyed and six enemy servicemen were killed.

During the operations on 4 May 1981, 27 of our friends and comrades-in-arms of the ground forces and 1 of our air force friends received the honor of martyrdom. May the pure blood of these crimson-shrouded combatants on the path of righteousness speedily bring the fruits of victory.

ABADAN OIL REFINERY SET ON FIRE BY IRAQI SHELLING

LD061248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 May 81

[Summary] According to PARS, battles continue in Abadan, on the Khuninshahr fronts and across the Arvand Rud on Iraqi soil. During the night and this morning Iranian forces destroyed an enemy tank and some trenches and foxholes and killed some Iraqis. During the past 48 hours, six Iraqi tanks were damaged in Abadan's Tir Square. Iraqi forces have again shelled residential areas of Abadan, damaging several houses. "Abadan's oil refinery was also set on fire by Iraqi shelling and was still burning at 1150."

TEHRAN REPORTS CLASH WITH IRAQIS NEAR MARIVAN

LD061850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau, quoting the staff of the Kordestan 28th Division, has reported that following the defeat yesterday of Saddam's army in an attack on the strategic heights of Marivan, enemy helicopters attempted to land forces in an area near the heights of (Takeh). However, they were confronted with the precise artillery fire of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this clash two guns, two vehicles and some heavy- and medium-size weapons belonging to Saddam's mercenaries, which were being landed from the helicopters, were destroyed. In this battle numerous casualties were also inflicted upon the enemy and the forces of blasphemy were forced to retreat.

RADIO IRAN ON PEOPLE'S ARREST OF FRIDAY IMAM

NC061722 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] The Friday imam and the head of the revolution guards corps of Shahr-e Kord are still under the people's arrest. Following reports broadcast 2 days ago on the Shahr-e Kord residents' attack on the revolution guards headquarters and the disarming of the guards and the arrest of the Friday imam and the head of the guards corps, recent reports indicate that the regional tribes have taken their captives to the mountains.

It is said that the people attacked the revolution guards center and arrested the head of the corps and the Friday imam because of the role these mercenaries are playing in crushing the freedom seekers.

RADIO IRAN: GUARDS ATTACK PEOPLE IN MASHHAD

NC061742 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] In a raid on the residence of Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani in Mashhad, revolution guards killed three people and injured others. Reports from Mashhad stated that some days ago a large group of people who had gone to Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani's residence were surrounded by armed revolution guards a few minutes after entering his residence. The revolution guards opened fire on the building, and then entered it and killed three and injured tens of others with their machinegun fire. Some of those injured are in extremely critical condition.

KDP STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH KOMELEH

TA061551 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran 1315 GMT 6 May 81

[Statement issued on 6 May by the Political Bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran]

[Text] Dear compatriots, noble people of Kordestan:

Following the clashes instigated by the armed members of the Komeleh with the party's peshmerga, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, in order to prevent fratricide, requested talks with the Komeleh representatives and strived greatly to resolve disputed questions through a logical and principled attitude and without resort to force. Unfortunately, it seems that the Komeleh leaders have perceived this logical attitude as a sign of the party's weakness, and it is probably for this reason that the armed Komeleh members assaulted the positions of the party's peshmerga in the Marivan region following the announcement of an agreement, and in some other regions they also prevented the comings and goings of the people and the party's followers on the roads.

It is obvious that the Komeleh engages in such activities in the current conditions because it believes that certain developments are taking place to resolve the problem of Kordestan; and since it recognizes this development as detrimental to its existence, it resorts to adventurism and the creation of disturbances to prevent its fulfillment. We once more warn the Komeleh leaders to desist from creating disturbances in Kordestan because this is to the benefit of the enemies of the Kurdish people and to the detriment of the democratic movement of the people of Kordestan.

At the same time we call on the toiling Kurdish people as witness that should the Komeleh leaders not desist from their antipeople activities, the responsibility of the grave consequences of these activities will fall directly on their shoulders.

The Political Bureau requests all the party's peshmerga throughout Kordestan to increase their revolutionary vigilance, and should they be assaulted in any way, they must defend themselves with decisiveness. The peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party must refrain from [word indistinct] and the creation of a climate that could be used in an opportunistic way by the armed Komeleh members. They must await the orders of the party's leadership by preserving discipline and complete order.

[Signed] Political Bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, 6 May